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HAMGYONG COAL MINES FAIL
TO REACH PRODUCTION QUOTAS

IRRESPONSIBLE OPERATORS CAUSE LOW PRODUCTION -- Nodong Sinmun, 12 Feb 50

The production levels of some of the coal mines in Hamgyong Namdo have been below standard. The Munch'on Coal Mine had attained only 51 percent of the January production quota by the 25th of that month. The Kuljin Coal Mine had attained only 25.8 percent by 23 January. The ignorance of the operators regarding the actual working conditions of the mines seems to be the reason for this low production.

The operators of these mines have been very reluctant to assume responsibility. If a freak accident occurs in a pit, the foreman immediately runs to the section director, without attempting to investigate or solve the problem on the spot. The director casually inspects the situation in a routine way, but usually leaves the problem on the shoulders of workers.

On 16 January, Ch'oe Nam-yo, director of the production department of Munch'on Coal Mine, was inspecting the central pit. In the same pit, there was a miner unable to continue digging because of a big boulder lying ahead of him. No helpful advice was given the miner by the director, who merely told the foreman to do something about it. While both the foreman and the director tried to place the responsibility on each other's shoulder, the operation in that pit was halted for 10 days.

The miners in Pit No 3 have been requesting technical advice from the technicians without any success.

This sort of irresponsibility and lack of cooperation on the part of the managing staff is a common occurrence in these mines. It is easy to see why production levels are low. The miners' morale is also low because they are always frustrated and disgruntled. It seems imperative that the managing staff be completely re-educated, if the standard production norm is to be attained by these mines.

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TOBACCO BY-PRODUCTS TO HELP INDUSTRY -- Minju Chosun, 9 Feb 50

Today, there are several thousand tons of waste tobacco occupying valuable warehouse space in the P'yongyang Tobacco Factory. The Bureau of Local Production Administration has discovered that a substantial quantity of potassium chlorate needed in match manufacturing and in the manufacture of certain insecticides can be produced from the waste tobacco.

Tobacco waste contains 6 to 8 percent of potassium chlorate. To date, all potassium chlorate used in match manufacturing is imported. Therefore, this new discovery is indeed good news to the people's economy in North Korea.

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